NBC NEWS EVENING REPORTS - TRUMAN POST PRESIDENCY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjJ3faN_5sE (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjJ3faN_5sE)

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From 1968 trough 1972 NBC evening news reports of the post Presidency and death of President Harry S. Truman

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former President Truman stricken with a stomach upset last night is resting comfortably in a Kansas City Hospital and he's not very ill mrs. Tilman explained she sent her husband to the hospital because she realized she couldn't handle the situation both Truman's are 84 on his way to California this weekend President Nixon will stop in Independence Missouri to see Harry Truman and to give him the White House piano he used to play there were times in the past when Truman hated Nixon so much he said if he ever saw me take a swing at him he once said he was tempted to call Nixon and SLB but he wouldn't because he claimed to be a self-made man Nixon in turn and the political Wars of the 50s called Truman a traitor a little man and one of the poorest presidents the United States has ever had well now the Truman is old and Nixon is president and when they meet tomorrow it is certain they will both be polite in the chorus and nobody will do or say anything unseemly on his way to California today President Nixon stopped off in Independence Missouri to call on Harry Truman and to give him the piano he used to play when he was in the White House for two men who once hated each other or sounded as if they did it was all very warm and cordial a report from NBC News correspondent Herbert Kaplow at wDAF TV in Kansas City after about half an hour at the Truman home in Independence the two men set out for the Truman library the 56 year old Nixon was very respectful it was 84 year old predecessor it often spoken kindly of mr. Toulmin in recent years but it took a long time for mr. Truman to forget some of the less kind words mr. Nixon had said about Democrats in earlier years mr. Nixon wanted today to again dramatize national unity and that was okay with mr. Truman at the library there was a good-sized cloud to which the president responded appropriately

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he also told newsmen how his meeting with mr. Truman had gone right up on everything told you Thank You June well I wouldn't discuss of course what ranging them personally like President Johnson from the guys are what regular briefings on world Fair's welcome back he said he would like to have it were arranging mr. mixon donated a channel to the library that mr. Truman had used in the White House the former president has once played piano with actress Lauren Bacall sprawled on it there was no Lauren Bacall today but the President President performed anyway of course the Missouri waltz and it seemed to me that since in addition to many other great contributions to the nation President Truman is made that he is certainly the most distinguished and accomplished pianist that his piano and the White House ought to be of his library and here it is mr. president I'll place up for the president I play everything at the key of G right here I had my ear Harry Truman remained in the hospital today but the doctor said he was in pretty good condition he was sitting up in bed reading the paper drinking tea

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in bed reading the paper drinking tea and looking at television president the painter is Thomas Hart Benton the ex-president of course is Harry Truman the two of them have had fights and feuds in the past but now they're good friends because they're both old enough to know that what they were fighting about was not important anyway and Benton is the only portrait we know Truman will allow in his house Thomas Hart Benton at 81 years old is still one of this country's most famous and interesting artists for several months Thomas Benton has been walking out to the studio behind his house to work on a portrait that his close friends described as a work of love it's a portrait of Harry Truman finished now except for some final touches it's not a portrait of Truman as he was when he was president but as he is today President Truman and Thomas Hart Benton are of the same mold they both lived independent and controversial lives in fact the two men carried on a feud of their own for a period of time but they came to be close friends in their later years and now there is an understanding and respect between them that is very deep it's all my planning even an old man standing for so it means a lot to me till they make the picture for presidents as I quite fully respect not only that I got some affection for it oh well whatever you like somebody it has that meaning how many people do you like in there like you around how I started doing this thing well back in 1962 maybe a sixty two or three after I finished the mural I summarized up in a jam or I was going to paint a portrait of him and he falls for it few days after I got it along so I thought maybe I had some control of it I came in here one morning I swallowed half a dozen treat that's photographs

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half a dozen treat that's photographs where the president made about 15 or 20 years before they all look like Clark Gable rather than the president ever that made people wanted me to make him look like that so I thought that I was disturbed and I kind of retired from the job the president understood this quite well so I quit that job and the President and I were talking about this laughing about it and a visit this winter and oh it came about when I said you know it's not too late to try again mr. president he said it's not like I know I Franco see him I come back our word a lot then I go say in the camel do you chat with him well yeah we talk all time will you talk about at this point in the conversation Thomas Benton became intentionally vague but when the interview was over he said just tell him we have a good time John Dancy NBC News reporting Harry Truman today entered a hospital in Kansas City Missouri for treatment of an intestinal problem his condition is satisfactory and his doctors say he's in high spirits mr. Truman is hospitalized with a similar ailment sixteen months ago he is 88 years old former president Harry Truman today went through a series of tests in a hospital in Kansas City Missouri Truman is suffering from an intestinal problem mr. Truman spent a restless night but today he was joking with the nurses about the funny hospital gown he had to wear to medical reports tonight in the Kansas City Hospital former president Harry Truman took a short walk in a corridor took some more medical tests ate roast beef and potatoes seemed just fine he's

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beef and potatoes seemed just fine he's 86 years former President Harry Truman was admitted today to research Medical Center in Kansas City Missouri he was said to have a pulmonary congestion and his condition was described as fair by a hospital spokesman in the last bulletin we have from the hospital they say no tests or treatments other than continued antibiotics are planned for tonight as well here to Kansas City's research hospital late yesterday afternoon suffering from what was diagnosed as pulmonary congestion that's one can just difficulty in breathing at the time the doctor said he was in fair condition but there was apparently some deterioration during the night this morning he was listed in serious condition which the hospital defines us acutely ill that recovery uncertain there's a turn for the worse and later today a hospital spokesman said it was more than just a case of lung congestion now an additional diagnosis of bronchitis has been made the bronchitis is complicated by mild weakening of the heart which is caused by atherosclerosis or hardening of the arteries common in persons of this age according to dr. Wallace Graham the lung congestion continues inhalation therapy treatments are being given to improve the lung function antibiotic medications are continuing later this afternoon doctors said mr. Truman is more comfortable now and he is eating some soft foods and liquors but his condition is still serious and mrs. Truman spent most of the day at his bedside and he left the hospital a short while ago to return to the Truman home and

neighboring independence that could be a good sign as far as tonight is concerned but again mr. Truman's condition is still listed as serious there is trouble with the heart the lungs of the arteries and he is 88 years old Fred Briggs NBC News of Research Hospital in Kansas City former president Harry Truman remains in critical condition tonight he is at the research

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condition tonight he is at the research center in medical hospital in Kansas City suffering from lung congestion and a weakened heart during the night mr. Truman experienced what his doctors described as an ultra critical period but he rallied somewhat in today's medical bulletins were more encouraging than those of yesterday President Truman's condition remains critical his general response is better today than yesterday he is being continuously monitored in his room his doctors have indicated that the infection is in the bronchial tree that's about the way it's been all day here a stable condition but still a critical condition and the long vigil for the Truman family this is Bess Truman and her sister-in-law spent most of last night at the former president's bedside and their daughter mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel arrived from Washington shortly before midnight her father's condition wasn't very encouraging last night but when she visited him today there was a change for the better she talked about that this afternoon oh I think it's the difference between night and day he's so much better today I was really kind of well obviously I was worried because they sent for me very suddenly and all the way along the trip from Washington I didn't know what was going on I had messages on the plane they said everything was still the same well the same hadn't been too good when I got here he was the men who were with him told me that he seemed better and this morning as I said when I walked in and he was awake and recognized my mother in me why I felt very much better than doctors this afternoon at research hospital in Kansas City say the condition of former president harry s truman is extremely precarious that he is in critical condition with his heart weakening here is what a hospital spokesman said about Truman's health this afternoon President Truman

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this afternoon President Truman continues in critical condition dr. Graham said the cardiac situation is extremely precarious frequent telephone calls to the hospital including one from Senator Edward Kennedy last night hundreds of cards and letters and many floral arrangements are all indications of the nation's continued concern for President Truman this is the first time the former presidents heart condition has been described as extremely precarious and a small time after the hospital released that statement the president's daughter mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel's took issue with it she said that she had just spoken to the president's personal physician dr. Wallace Graham and that he delivered nothing Shayne's she also said that in a sense her father's heart condition has been extremely precarious all along and that the use of those two words should not be taken as a sign that her father's condition had deteriorated many sense he was clearly irritated with a hospital's best department but the real of the food here seems to be a semantic one since mr. Truman's condition became critical two days ago the state of his heart has always been the prime concern it still is no matter which words are being used to describe a web Bridge NBC News that research hospital in Kansas City the condition of former president Harry Truman continues to fluctuate not so good earlier today according to research hospital in Kansas City improved later in the day but in any case still serious former president areas Truman is somewhat improved over this morning at 2:15 p.m. blood pressure was 138 over 60 pulse 88 and respirations 23 temperature was 99 degrees he has been resting quietly kidney output continues to be adequate he remains in serious condition for three days now the former president has been off the critical list and to an extent his condition has stabilized there have been some variations for example this morning we were told mr. Truman's vital

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morning we were told mr. Truman's vital signs that's pulse temperature and respiration had become unstable then this afternoon we were told his condition had slightly improved since Saturday night what fluctuations there have been and mr. Truman's conditions seem to be minor not severe enough to put him back on the

critical list and yet not good enough to upgrade him to fair condition which is one step better than serious reporters have been unable to question mr. Truman's doctors directly which makes it a little difficult in getting any clarification of these bulletins we can only assume that mr. Truman and his doctors are making quite a fight of it and that that fight is still going on Fred Briggs NBC News Kansas City former president harry s truman is still in serious condition in Kansas City's research hospital not on the critical list now but a little weaker today his daughter mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel appeared again today at a news conference Fred Briggs is covering the story as of late this afternoon the former president's temperature was still somewhat higher than normal 101 point two degrees and as doctors report that he is semi-conscious and not responding to people as well as he did last night responding in terms of answering questions his daughter Margaret Truman Daniel however said that he was awake some of the time today that he recognized her and it smiled at her despite the fact that he had weakened today mrs. Daniel said he was still much better than he was when she arrived a week ago I think he's still better than that but as I said before he is 88 years old and he's frail and he is ill and I think it's a question of strength actually every little bit takes its toll this personal physician dr. Wallace Graham said Mr Truman is weaker and there are signs that his kidneys are not purifying his blood as they should and the fluid is collecting in his lungs again that's what brought mr. Truman to

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again that's what brought mr. Truman to the hospital in the first place so a week ago yesterday all of this is not severe enough to put mr. Truman back on the critical list but he does remain in serious condition Fred Briggs NBC News Kansas City the condition of former president harry s truman grew worse today yesterday was described at at Kansas City's research hospital as serious today the condition was called very serious although mr. Truman's doctor refused to say that he was once more in critical condition here's a report from Fred Briggs the briefings on the former president's condition today have not been encouraged this morning hospital spokesman said fluid is collecting in his right lung and there was some renal or kidney malfunction this afternoon the news wasn't any better there has been little change in former President Truman's condition since this morning he is slightly more alert but unable to talk vital signs remain satisfactory kidney output has become slightly inadequate as a result medications to stimulate the kidneys were increased this morning he also shows changes in blood chemistry consistent with increasing renal impairment doctors say his condition remains very serious the vital signs referred to in these medical bulletins are pulse respiration blood pressure and temperature despite the slight deterioration zuv recent days the vital signs are still more or less within normal limits and as long as they are mr. Truman will not be put back on the critical list yet today his condition has gone from serious to very serious and that is not a very good sign Fred Briggs NBC News Kansas City Research Hospital in Kansas City no longer talks with mr. Truman being an extremely critical condition or a very critical condition but simply in critical condition and sinking Lou Davis has a report mr. Truman has been in research hospital for 19 days now and except for brief rallies his condition has been getting progressively worse he's been in a coma since late Friday night the hospital spokesman said today

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night the hospital spokesman said today his heart is failing President Truman's cardiac status is finally worse and that he is experiencing more frequent periods of abnormal cardiac rhythm his blood pressure continues to fluctuate and is becoming weaker respiration remains slow and shallow mr. Truman's lungs seemed slightly less congested his temperature at 2:30 was 102 degrees and his pulse rate continues to fluctuate over 100 doctors say he remains in critical condition at the Truman House there is little activity today because everyone is at the hospital mr. Truman's friends and neighbors and independents went to church today to attend pre Christmas services and also to offer special prayers for the former president's health let us continue to pray our Heavenly Father be with the Truman family in this day strengthen mr. Truman in his encounter with illness and teach us that we're always in the hand of God and underneath are the everlasting arms [Music] stand beside the lonely and disappointed that this season grant him by assurance of abiding

presence in Kansas City today former president harry s truman is critically ill in a deep coma and all the signs indicate he is close to death his wife Bess is with him at research hospital and his doctors say death could occur in a matter of

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say death could occur in a matter of hours they have been saying that incidentally for most of the day mr. Truman was a remarkably tough man in the White House and he's being remarkably tough at this stage of his life as well good evening the death of former president harry s truman which took place in Kansas City earlier today comes as sad news to the people of this country and to the Western world it was expected mr. Truman was 88 years old and had fought a long final battle against old age in the Kansas City Hospital he died this morning here's a report from Lou Davis at research Hospital doctors attended mr. Truman all night but they had already given up hope they had told the family mr. Truman had only hours to live the former presidents daughter mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel arrived last night but her father was in a coma and she stayed only a few minutes she took her mother who had been in the hospital all day long to the Truman home in Independence they were there when they were notified of the former president's death this morning few minutes after the family was told a hospital spokesman notified the news men waiting at the hospital the Honorable Harry s Truman 33rd fred's in the United States died at 7:50 a.m. at Research Hospital and Medical Center the cause of death has not been determined the announcement of mr. Truman's death came as no surprise his condition had deteriorated steadily since last Saturday when he was again put on the critical list an old friend of the former president Randall Jesse talked about mr. Truman's last days and his fight to keep alive he was a winner and he made every effort to bill under this time too because he wouldn't give up and even we discussed this quite a blank with the doctors and they said that it's amazing it must be a subconscious something that we don't know too much about it and people of his type his survival type and their will to live and sometimes people who have far

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live and sometimes people who have far less wrong with him than he had become much earlier than he did President Nixon ordered that all flags be flown at half-staff for the 30 day mourning period the president will visit the Truman family in Independence tomorrow a friend of the family said mrs. Truman and mrs. Daniel were taking the former president's death well they had long been expecting it shortly after news of his death became known people began gathering in front of the Truman House from any of these people mr. Truman had been more than a president it had been a friend and a neighbor mrs. Truman and mrs. Daniel left the house briefly this morning apparently to go to the funeral home visitation at the Carson Funeral Home in Independence will be for invited guests only then tomorrow a motorcade will take mr. Truman's body to the harry s truman library there the public will be allowed to pay its respects there will be a private funeral service on Thursday afternoon and mr. Truman will be buried here in the courtyard of the library built in his honor Lou Davis NBC News Independence Missouri [Music] at the Florida White House President Nixon proclaimed Thursday the day of mr. Truman's funeral to be a day of national mourning the president also directed that flags on all public buildings be displayed at half-staff for the next 30 days in a eulogy mr. Nixon said his farsighted leadership in the post-war era has helped us to preserve peace and freedom in the world our hopes today for a generation of peace rest in large measure on the firm foundation that he laid and in Austin Texas Lyndon Johnson now the only living former president had this to say a 20th century John is gone few men of any times ever shaped the

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few men of any times ever shaped the world as did the man from Independence President Truman presided over the deaths in this country during one of its most turbulent eras never flinching in the face of crucial national choices his decisions changed the course of the entire world I shall miss him in the most personal and private way and I shall be grateful all my days for the privilege of having known so great a man there has been reaction to mr. Truman's death from all over the world Queen Elizabeth of England Prime Minister villi

brunt of West Germany the leaders of most of the West European countries express sorrow at the death of a man who had helped them so much in the years after World War two Arnold Toynbee - British historian remembered Truman's firmness in office and recalled his famous phrase the buck stops here that said Toynbee was typical of the man trash in New Mexico first independence President Nixon and former President Lyndon Johnson were both in Independence today paying their last respects to the 33rd President of the United States mr. Truman's body was taken from a funeral home along a motorcade route to the Truman Memorial Library where the burial will take place tomorrow here is part of what today's proceedings looked and sounded like [Music] this is mr. Crimmins daughter Margaret

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this is mr. Crimmins daughter Margaret and her husband Clifton Daniel [Music] the motorcade traveled one and a half miles soldiers stood ten paces apart on both sides of the street and the townspeople watched at Delaware and Truman Road mrs. Truman was in seclusion she had seen her husband for the last time yesterday at the funeral Chaplin all the shades were drawn by but one in her house and she watched from there at the Truman library thousands waited along with members of the Armed Forces and the man of mr. Truman's World War one artillery battery battery D [Music]

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mr. Truman's two smallest grandchildren there on the right of the screen with the damage let us pray for those who mourn Oh Holy Spirit be here with those who mourn that your presence may give courage strength and hope in time of trees and firm guidance that in our brief we may turn to God our Father with confidence assured of his love and his compassion and His mercy through Jesus Christ His Son our Lord who with you and the father are one God world without him [Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause] [Music]

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Harry Truman left the White House almost 20 years ago and yet he has remained a popular figure in this year's Gallup poll on the figures most admired by Americans Truman came in third after President Nixon and Billy Graham Henry Kissinger a newcomer to the list came in fourth followed by Edward Kennedy George Wallace Spiro Agnew and Pope Paul harry s truman of the state of Missouri was one of the last of the presidents to be born on a farm one of the last Americans to grow up as a boy with wet clay between his toes and go on to sit in the Oval Office as the chief magistrate of the American people it was quite a life for Harry Truman and here is what some of it looked like he was a plain man who proved that any American boy even the humblest would rise to be President or Harry Truman was born a farm boy of poor parents and as he grew up had to work hard to get on in the world his father was John Anderson Truman an upright man who put honor above profit his mother was Martha Ellen young she lived well into her nineties and all her long life was the lock on which Harry Truman founded his character he joined the National Guard's 35th division he went off to France in World War one he commanded battery D in 129th Field Artillery saw plenty of action of Samuele and in the mers our gun when he came home he married Bess Wallace his childhood sweetheart and went on to the haberdashery business with a wartime buddy Eddie Jacobson he lost everything in the Depression of 1921 Harry Truman's

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in the Depression of 1921 Harry Truman's political career began with the building of roads in Jackson County Missouri his record won him a nomination for United States Senator by the Missouri Democratic organization when run by the notorious political boss Tom Pendergast Harry Truman was in later life criticized for this machine support he attacked us as hypocritical and he was not a man to turn his back on someone who had helped him as he showed when he attended Pendergast funeral in 1945 Tom Pendergast never asked me to do a dishonest deed he answered his critics I am truly sorry he was my friend he did not want the Democratic nomination for vice president in 1944 for which he was the Dark Horse compromise choice however he accepted the assignment as a faithful party man and as a devoted follower of Franklin Delano Roosevelt he

could not dream what was in store for both these men on the 83rd day of his fourth term April 12th 1945 Franklin D Roosevelt died and Harry Truman became president of the United States he was a dazed man when he took the oath of office but Truman met the crisis with courage and humility at this moment I have in my heart of prayer as I have assumed my heavy duty I only pray Almighty God in the words of King Solomon gives therefore thy servant an understanding heart the judge thy people that I may discern between good and bad for who is able to judge this by so great people I asked owners of the egg good and faithful servant of my lord and my people Harry Truman should have had time

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people Harry Truman should have had time to prepare for the burdens of office but history could not wait great events were taking place demanding quick decisions World War two was rushing to a close on May 8th 1945 Germany surrendered in August at Potsdam Germany President Truman met Britain's leader Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin of Russia to discuss the administration of conquered Germany and Russia's entry into the war against Japan August was also the fateful month in which the city of Hiroshima was blasted by the first atomic bomb it was Harry Truman made the historic decision to use it we have used it in order to shorten the agony of war in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans a few weeks later Japan surrendered to General MacArthur peace came aboard the battleship Missouri named after Truman's home state victory was a great moment for him as for all Americans there were other memorable events that first year in office strong believer in the United Nations Truman hastened its first Organization meeting in San Francisco fails addressed this supreme sense to establish a worldwide rule of reason to create an enduring peace under the guidance of God support of Unruh brought desperately needed help to millions of war victims he promoted the plan of Secretary of State George Marshall to rebuild Europe economically and when Russia sought to squeeze the Allies out of West Berlin in 1948 by blockading the city a giant airlift had food and fuel to beleaguered West Berlin even though the risk and the

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West Berlin even though the risk and the cost sometimes in lives were great the Russians finally yielded the blockade was lifted it was a great triumph for the free world and for the foreign policy of President Truman as the presidential elections of 1948 approached his Republican rival that year was governor Thomas e Dewey of New York the Democrats were disheartened by the desertion of prominent figures like former vice president Henry Wallace and J Strom Thurmond governor of South Carolina both of whom ran for president on their own tickets his pessimistic party nominated Truman only at his insistence he threw away the prepared scripts that often cramped his speaking style and talked in the plain homey manner in you best where the help of God and the whole hearted push which you can put behind this campaign we can save this country from a continuation of the 80th Congress and from miss rule from now on I must you must get in and push and win this election the country can't afford another Republican Congress prophecies of defeat trailed him until Election Day the Truman's optimism never wavered the next four years Soviet Democrats in the White House you're looking at and he was right and one of the greatest upsets of American political history harry s truman was reelected president by two million votes truman enjoyed his surprising victory but characteristically he said let's have no gloating however he could not resist the impulse to poke fun at prescient politicians who said he could not win this is a famous bit of a mimicry of a well-known commentator who had held to that position through the embarrassing end

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to strengthen the free world against communism Truman promoted NATO the Alliance of three nations have bordered on the North Atlantic Ocean he sent an expert leadership and military muscle but in the East his hopes for peace suffered two great shocks America's Chinese Ally the Nationalist government headed by Chiang kai-shek collapsed Chung was forced to flee to Formosa when the Communists led by Mao Zedong over land the country and set up a red regime a year later the North Koreans invaded South Korea President Truman immediately ordered American troops in Japan to rush to the aid of the Republic of South Korea and

he invoked the help of the United Nations the Korean War lasted three bitter indecisive years when General Douglas MacArthur wrote about his desire to carry the war to the mainland of China President Truman asserted his authority as commander-in-chief and fired the famous General MacArthur came home to a hero's welcome Truman faced the storm of criticism that followed without apology the cause of world peace is much more important than any individual a rebellious Congress gave Truman no quarter he was attacked by Senator Joseph McCarthy for alleged coddling of Communists and government Truman struck back at what he called McCarthy's disgraceful demagoguery and called in the Kremlin's greatest asset the attacks Mountain he had decided early in 1952 that he would not run again I shall not be a candidate for the election I have served my country long and I think efficiently and honestly I shall not

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efficiently and honestly I shall not accept a reen AMA nation I do not feel that it is my duty to spend another four years in the White House he campaigned valiantly for the man named by the Democratic Party to succeed him governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois but the miracle of 1948 was not to be repeated the presidency was won by the man who had served under Harry Truman as a soldier General Dwight D Eisenhower Truman remained in Washington long enough to see his successor take office then retired to Independence Missouri to his friends his home 2:19 North Delaware Street to be plain harry s truman again he enjoyed the full the simple pleasures of being just hold folks but he still rose at 5:30 in the morning and put in a long full day's work he immersed himself in writing his memoirs some of his characteristically blunt opinions about leading figures and events of his administration immediately became controversial he worked full-time in his office at the Truman Memorial Library building Harry Truman had a strong sense of history the library holds the state papers he had gathered during one of the most critical and controversial periods in this country's history in 1956 he drew worldwide attention during a trip to Europe his sightseeing zest and lack of ceremony delighted the Europeans at Oxford he received an honorary degree of Doctor of civil law he used his weight and influence at the 1956 Democratic convention hoping to nominate Averill Harriman of New York for the presidency but even though the party ignored its formal leader and Rhee nominated handily Stephenson mr. Truman campaigned for him and Stevenson's second unsuccessful attempt to become president as the years passed since he had been in office there was a steady

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had been in office there was a steady rise in the public affection in which he was held his own dignity was unimportant to harry s truman but the dignity of the office of the president of the united states was of the utmost importance he was aware of the tremendous responsibilities of the president and he gave complete cooperation guidance and advice to the chief executives who followed him time will be the final judge on hairiest ruins place in history as it will on any other man's place but his qualities as a human being and the man his courage and his humility were clear to all his countrymen as he revealed them in his farewell address to the nation - those baths died I thought there must be a million men better qualified than I to take up the presidential task but the work was mine to do and I had to do it and I tried to give it everything that is in NBC News later tonight NBC News will present a half-hour memorial program on Harry Truman that will be 11:30 Eastern Time 10:30 central finally tonight David Brinkley's journal David was a Washington correspondent during the years of the Truman presidency and he has some observations on the man David some of our presidents have been wax figures or tailor's dummies who if they had any feelings would never let anyone know it Truman was not one of them as has been said he made a great many difficult decisions and he also behaved like a human being years ago his only child Margaret was trying to be a singer one time when she sang in public the music critic on the Washington Post wrote a severely critical review Truman was so furious he sat down alone early in the morning in a White House office and wrote the critic and note threatening to punch him in the

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and note threatening to punch him in the nose and he mailed it to it when that got out all of the smart alecks including me said oh that was terrible and undignified and the president shouldn't do that and so on well years after when my own son and his high school chorus sang on Christmas Eve in the National Gallery of Art a few Christmas carols mostly for parents the same critic reviewed them and said they were terrible well then I knew how Truman felt he was right that critic needed a punch in the nose it is true he was president at a dangerous time and performed with great courage on his own time he liked to play poker and drink a little bourbon any president who likes a little poker a little whiskey and would like to punch a music critic who attacks his daughter must be all right and he was just wait first mr. Truman's funeral it was a simple affair as he had ordered it took place before a small invited group of family and friends from Independence an audience which included senator Hubert Humphrey and Mike Westwood who had been mr. Truman's driver his daughter Margaret was there with her husband Clifton Daniel and their four sons and Bess Truman was there 87 years old her face a study in composed grief here's how it went met the Truman Memorial Library in Independence [Music] [Applause]

00:46:08 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjJ3faN_5sE&t=2768s)

let us pray O Lord Jesus Christ who was laid in the new tomb of Joseph and did thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope for thy people vouchsafe we beseech thee to bless hallow consecrate this grave that it may be a resting place peaceful and secure for the body of thy servant which we are about to commit to thy gracious keeping what the resurrection and the life and who liveth and reigneth with the father and the Holy Ghost one God world without end unto Almighty God we commend the soul of our brother departed and we commit his body to the ground earth to earth ashes to ashes dust to dust [Music]

00:48:08 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjJ3faN_5sE&t=2888s)

[Music] [Applause] [Music] the ceremonies held for former President Truman today involved one president and one former president but for the people of independence it was a day when the death of a friend of the neighbor was being acknowledged Lou Davis reports on that aspect of the story independence is rich in American history it was the jumping-off point for both the Santa Fe and the Oregon trails Daniel Boone came here so did Jesse James but most people know Independence says harry s truman 's hometown when he left the white house he came back here to the family home a simple house in a quiet neighborhood he was the kind of man who liked his neighbors and they liked him he would quite often walk long in front of our house or walk by and talk to my boys and permit him to take

00:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjJ3faN_5sE&t=3001s)

talk to my boys and permit him to take pictures and to visit with him and my son delivers his paper I couldn't have found a friendlier neighbor what do you remember of him just after he was president when he came home to independence well he was just exactly like he was before he became president that the responsibilities then change him with his friends at all they were just the same old friends they were before mr. Truman was not only close to those who lived on the street he was the number one citizen of Independence and everyone who lives here considered him a friend and felt they knew him this afternoon the people of Independence watched mr. Truman's casket as it was taken from the funeral home to the library and as they stood they had their own personal thoughts about the man just go with Margaret chillin you know was in a class of her high school you know she's sort of proud of him he's me he had liven up the town that tonight the people of his hometown are paying their last respects at the Truman library as the man from Independence who became the 33rd President of the United States lies in state tomorrow on television NBC News will cover the funeral of mr. Truman our coverage begins at 3:00 in the afternoon

00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjJ3faN_5sE&t=3120s)

coverage begins at 3:00 in the afternoon Eastern Time good night for NBC News there were ceremonies honoring the memory of former President Truman all over the world today and the American Cathedral in Paris in harry s truman square in athens in a military chapel in Saigon in nationalist China all the flags were

at half-staff but the ceremony mr. Truman might have liked the most took place in the town where he was born here's a report on that ceremony from Lou Davis areas Truman was born about a hundred miles south of Independence in this small farming community Lamar Missouri he lived here for the first six years of his life today while funeral services were being held in Independence the people of his hometown held a service in front of the house where mr. Truman was born we this day the passing of one who has risen from the beginning here in the city of Lamar Missouri to the highest office in the land that of the President of the United States and speaking of Harry Truman the scripture would have to say that he was a man who walked through life with an idea in mind with a position he ordered to reach our nation he wanted to serve [Music]

END